



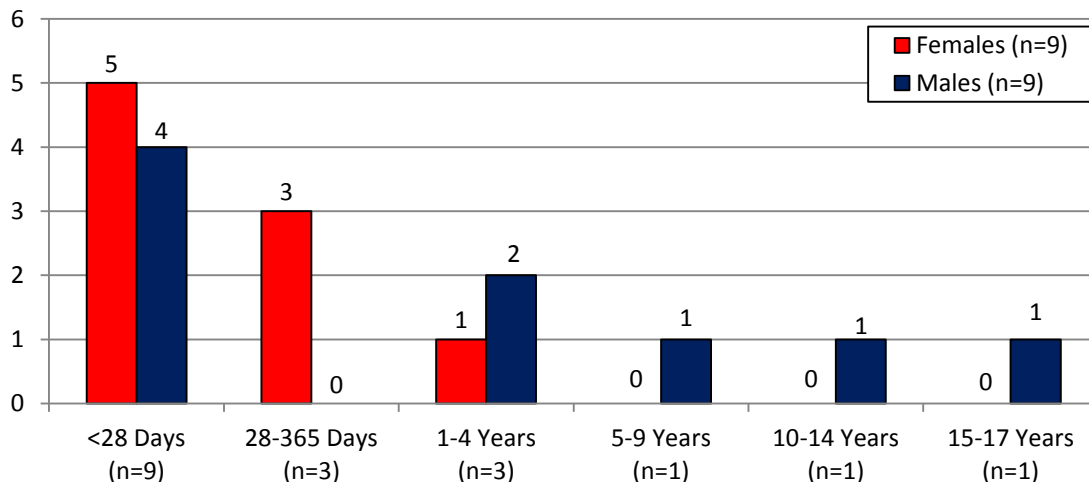
## Arizona Child Fatality Review Program

### 2011 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR GILA, GRAHAM, AND GREENLEE COUNTIES

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Gila, Graham, or Greenlee Counties. During 2011, there were 18 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Gila (n=9), Graham (n=4), and Greenlee (n=5), and 790 in the remaining Arizona counties. Males accounted for 50 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=9) and females also accounted for 50 percent (n=9). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=18)**



Deaths were over-represented among American Indian children in these counties. American Indian children comprised 22 percent of the population in these counties but 39 percent of the fatalities (n=7). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 46 percent of the population and 28 percent of the fatalities (n=5). Hispanic children comprised 31 percent of the population and 28 percent of the fatalities (n=5).

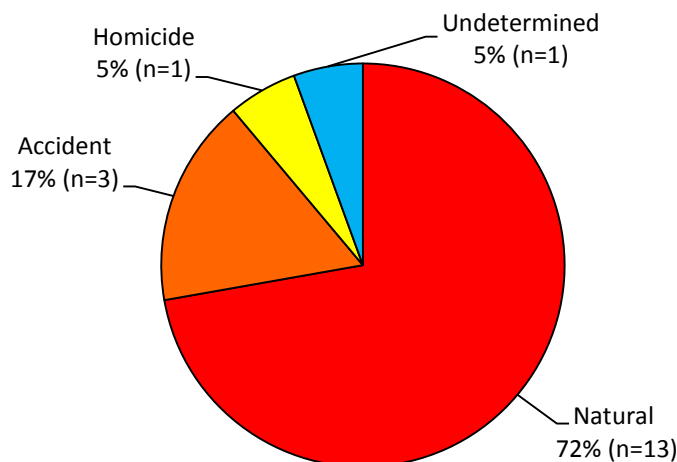
## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or medical condition that resulted in death (e.g. firearm-related injury, pneumonia, cancer). Manner of death is not the same as cause of death, but specifically refers to the intentionality of the cause. For example, if the cause of death was a firearm-related injury, then the manner of death may have been intentional or unintentional. If it was intentional, then the manner of death was suicide or homicide. If it was unintentional, then the manner of death was an accident. In some cases, there was insufficient information to determine the manner of death, even though the cause was known. It may not have been clear that a firearm death was due to an accident, suicide, or homicide, and in these cases, the manner of death was listed as undetermined. Manners of death include:

- natural (e.g., cancer)
- accident (e.g., unintentional car crash)
- homicide (e.g., assault)
- suicide (e.g., self-inflicted intentional firearm injury)
- undetermined

Seventy-two percent of child deaths were due to natural manners (n=13), 17 percent were due to accidents (n=3) and homicide and undetermined each accounted for 1 death (5 percent each).

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner,  
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=18)**



Eight deaths were due to medical causes. Five deaths were due to prematurity and there were two deaths due to MVC/Transport. One child died by homicide and another was of an undetermined manner. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=18)					
Cause	Natural	Accident	Homicide	Undetermined	Total
Medical*	8	0	0	0	8
Prematurity	5	0	0	0	5
MVC/Transport	0	2	0	0	2
Firearm	0	0	1	0	1
Drowning	0	1	0	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>
*Excludes Prematurity and SIDS					

## PREVENTABILITY

Child fatality review teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. The local child fatality review team determined that 39 percent of the deaths among Gila, Graham, and Greenlee County children could have been prevented (n=7) which was a higher percentage than the remaining counties (35 percent, n=273).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, substance use was the leading contributing factor, having been involved in 5 child deaths. Lack of, or improper use of a vehicle restraint was a contributing factor in 2 child deaths. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties in 2011.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2011		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Substance use	5	33%
Lack of vehicle restraint	2	11%
Lack of supervision	1	6%
Excessive speed	1	6%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

## CHILD FATALITIES IN GILA, GRAHAM, AND GREENLEE COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 12 Arizona counties. During 2011, 18 children who were residents of Gila, Graham, or Greenlee Counties died, and 790 children died who were residents of the other 12 counties. Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties had a crude rate of 73.1 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a much higher rate than among the remainder of the state (48.9 deaths per 100,000 residents).

The percentage of preventable deaths among children in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties was higher than the remaining counties. Thirty-nine percent of the deaths of Gila County, Graham County, and Greenlee County children could have been prevented (n=7), compared to 35 percent of preventable deaths in the remaining counties (n=273).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (44 percent) and for the remainder of Arizona (41 percent). Prematurity accounted for 28 percent of deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties and 24 percent for the rest of Arizona. MVC/Transport deaths accounted for 11 percent of deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties but only eight percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2011			
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=18)		Arizona, Excluding Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=790)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	44%	Medical	41%
Prematurity	28%	Prematurity	24%
MVC/Transport	11%	MVC/Transport	8%
Firearm	6%	Firearm	2%
Drowning	6%	Drowning	4%
Undetermined	6%	Undetermined	5%

In Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, the largest percentage of deaths was due to natural manner (72 percent), a higher percentage than the remaining counties (65 percent). The second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidental manners (17 percent), this was slightly lower than the remaining counties (19 percent). There were no suicides in Gila, Graham and Greenlee counties in 2011. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2011			
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=18)		Arizona, excluding Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=790)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	72%	Natural	65%
Accident	17%	Accident	19%
Suicide	0%	Suicide	5%
Homicide	5%	Homicide	5%
Undetermined	5%	Undetermined	6%
Unknown	0%	Unknown	<1%